THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Ariana Airlines is operating services on Amritsar-Kabul sector. Government would welcome more flights Air India and Indian Airlines have been asked to examine possibilities of operating international flights connecting Amritsar.

Pilferage of Funds in I.T.D.C. Restaurants

2111. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been instances of pilferage of funds in the restaurants of the ITDC hotels including the Janpath Hotel, as per the news item entitled 'ITDC to install machine-Pilferage rampant restaurants', which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated 13-4-93;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The News item relates to the lossess suffered by ITDC to pilferage in the Restaurants of some of ITDC due Hotels, alleged assault on Officers of ITDC, mis-appropriation of expenditure tax by some employees of the Janapath Hotel, etc. Minor cases of pilferage by the staff of the restaurants of some of the ITDC hotels have come to the notice of the Management from time to time. The cases of pilferage are investigated by the Vigilance Division of the Hotels. On the basis of investigations, disciplinary authorities take suitable action against the erring employees. Four employees of Hotel Janapath are alleged to have been involved in the misappropriation of cash of the said hotel. The case has been handed over to the Crime Branch of Delhi Police for investigation.

(c) Steps taken by the ITDC Management to check pilferage include machanisation of billing, exercise of strict control. Plugging of loopholes in the procedure and system.

2112. *[Transferred to 20th August, 1993]*

Proposals to make Visit to Taj More Attractive

2113. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have any proposal under consideration to make the visit to Taj Mahal more attractive; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have decided to step up the maintenance and improve tourist facilities at historical monuments such as Taj Mahal and Fatehpur Sikri at Agra. Improvement of civic amenities such as roads, drinking water, power supply, providing better shopping facilities, evening entertainment for tourists sound and light shows and music and cultural programmes are some of the other measures being taken up for implementation.

Delay of IC-721 flight from Calcutta

2114. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA :
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that on 16-7-93 IC-721 flight from Calcutta reached Delhi via Dhaka (Bangladesh) after dropping three technicians there;

(b) whether it is a fact that passengers were not informed at Dum Dum airport and their arrival at Delhi was delayed by 9-10 hours;

(c) whether some of the passengers missed their connecting flight;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) what action is proposed to be taken in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir. IC-721 does not operate to Delhi. However, on 15-7-93 flight IC-721 between Calcutta and Bagdogra was operated via Dhaka to drop men and material for grounded aircraft at Dhaka.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) All efforts are made to minimise delay and cancellations.